

C<sup>1</sup> ~~Sub D<sup>1</sup>~~ 51. A method of increasing bioavailability of nutrients in a mammal comprising buccally administering to said mammal a composition an isolated *Bacillus coagulans* bacterium, a fructo-oligosaccharide, and a mineral gluconate.

C<sup>2</sup> ~~Sub D<sup>3</sup>~~ 55. A method of increasing bioavailability of nutrients in a mammal comprising buccally administering to said mammal a composition comprising an isolated *Bacillus coagulans* bacterium, a fructo-oligosaccharide, and a mineral citrate.

61. The method of claim 51, wherein said bacterium is in the form of a dried cell mass.

~~Sub D<sup>5</sup>~~ 62. The method of claim 51, wherein said bacterium is in the form of a stabilized gel or paste, or a stabilized liquid suspension.

63. The method of claim 55, wherein said bacterium is in the form of a dried cell mass.

C<sup>3</sup> ~~Sub D<sup>6</sup>~~ 64. The method of claim 55, wherein said bacterium is in the form of a stabilized gel or paste, or a stabilized liquid suspension.

~~Sub D<sup>7</sup>~~ 65. The method of claim 57, wherein said bacterium is in the form of a dried cell mass.

66. The method of claim 57, wherein said bacterium is in the form of a stabilized gel or paste, or a stabilized liquid suspension.

67. The method of claim 51, wherein said composition is a gel, suspension, aerosol spray, capsule, tablet, wafer, powder, or semi-solid formulation.

68. The method of claim 55, wherein said composition is a gel, suspension, aerosol spray, capsule, tablet, wafer, powder, or semi-solid formulation.

~~add D<sup>8</sup>~~